

Appl. No. 10/655,445
Amdt. Dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 7, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A boot for use with a joint, said boot comprising:
a body;
a first end of said body having a generally tubular shape;
a second end of said body having an annular sealing lip;
an annular ridge arranged on said body; and
at least one end of said sealing boot ends is reinforced with a rigid support material, said rigid support material is arranged between layers of said body material.
2. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 1, wherein said at least one end is internally reinforced.
3. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 1, wherein said at least one end is reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength material.
4. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 3 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is a fabric.
5. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 1 wherein said rigid support material is arranged between layers of a flexible material.
6. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 5 wherein said flexible material is a thermoplastic.

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7. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 1 wherein said rigid support material extends from approximately said first end to said second end.

8. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 1 wherein said rigid support material stabilizes the boot at high speeds.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A boot having high stability and superior sealing capability during high speed operation, high temperatures, and high operating angles for use on a joint, said boot comprising:

a body;

a first end of said body having a generally tubular shape;

a second end of said body having an annular sealing area;

an annular ridge on said body;

the sealing boot is comprised of a flexible material and at least one end is having internally reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength material encapsulated within said flexible material for providing the high stability and superior sealing.

10. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 9 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material extends from approximately said first end to said second end.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The boot of claim 9 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is arranged between a first and second layers of said flexible material.

12. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 9 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is a fabric.

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13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A joint assembly, said assembly comprising:
a shaft;
a first joint part connected to said shaft;
a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque there between;
a plurality of balls arranged between said first joint part and said second joint part;
a boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part; and
wherein at least one of said boot ends is reinforced with a rigid support material.
14. (ORIGINAL) The assembly of claim 13, wherein said at least one end is internally reinforced.
15. (ORIGINAL) The assembly of claim 13, wherein said at least one end is reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength material.
16. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 15 wherein said high stiffness and high strength material is a fabric.
17. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 13 wherein said rigid support material is arranged between layers of a flexible material.
18. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 17 wherein said flexible material is a rubber.
19. (ORIGINAL) The boot of claim 13 wherein said rigid support material extends from approximately said first end to said second end.

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20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A joint assembly for use on a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a shaft;

a first joint part connected to said shaft;

a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque there between;

a cage arranged between said first joint part and said second joint part;

a rubber boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part;

a boot cover having a first end and a second end, said first end of said boot cover affixable to said second joint part and said second end of said boot cover affixable to said second end of said boot; and

wherein at least one end of said boot ends is internally reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength fabric material so as to provide high stability and superior sealing capability during high speed operation, high temperatures, and high operation angles.

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20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A joint assembly for use on a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a shaft;

a first joint part connected to said shaft;

a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque there between;

a cage arranged between said first joint part and said second joint part;

a rubber boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part;

a boot cover having a first end and a second end, said first end of said boot cover affixable to said second joint part and said second end of said boot cover affixable to said second end of said boot; and

wherein at least one end of said boot ends is internally reinforced with a high stiffness and high strength fabric material so as to provide high stability and superior sealing capability during high speed operation, high temperatures, and high operation angles.